

Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
Third Sunday of the Great Fast  
March 23, 2014

Prefestive day of the Annunciation

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Evening for the Sunday of Forgiveness  
(Cheesefare Sunday) and the Sundays of the Great Fast.*

Lamp-lighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - *Tone 3 samohlasen*

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re-ceive the voice of my pray'r when I

call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r

as - cend to you like in - cense, and the lift - ing up of my hands like an

eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.  
Let not my heart be inclined to evil,  
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.

If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness  
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.

Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;

then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,

so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;

in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;

keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set

while I pursue my way *unharmed*.

#### **Psalm 141**

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,

with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;

I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *within* me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.

On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:

there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,

not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.


I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry


for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me


for they are stronger *than* I.

Cantor:   
Bring my soul out of this pris-on and then I shall praise your name.

**Stichera of Repentence - Tone 3 samohlasen**


<sup>⑩</sup>   
We of - fer you our eve - ning hymn, O Christ, with in - cense and

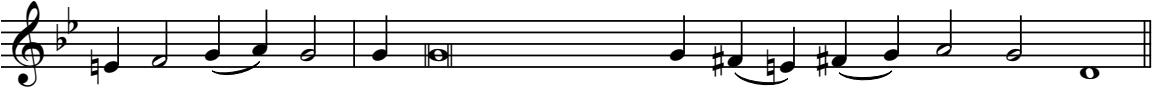
  
spir - it - ual song. Have mercy upon our souls, O Sav - ior.

Cantor:   
A - round me the just will assem-ble be-cause of your good - ness to me.

<sup>⑨</sup>   
Save me, O my Lord God, for you are the Sav - ior of all.


  
A storm of passion is toss-ing me a - bout, and the weight of transgression

  
is sink-ing me. Give me your help-ing hand, and lead me to the light of

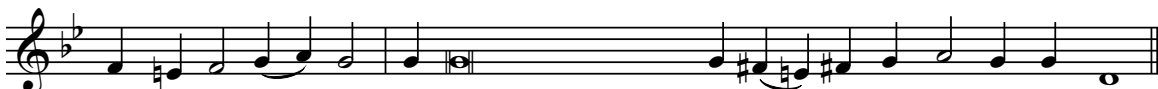
  
hu - mil - i - ty; for you alone are merci-ful and you love man - kind.

*Cantor:*   
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!

  
Col-lect my scat-tered spir-it, O Lord; re - move the thorns from my heart.


  
Give me the repen-ance of Peter, the sighs of the pub - li - can, and the tears


  
of the sin - ful wo-man, so that I may cry out to you in a loud voice:

  
Save me, O my God, the Lover of Mankind and the on - ly com-pas-sion-ate Lord.

*Cantor:*   
Let your ears be at-ten - tive to the voice of my plead - ing.

  
Of-ten when I am prais-ing you, I find my-self in the state of sin;

  
and when my lips are sing - ing hymns to you, my soul is think ing

  
of van - i - ties. Through re - pent - ance, perfect me com - plete - ly,

O Christ our God, have mercy on me and save me.

*Tone 8 samohlasen*

*Cantor:* If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

**Stichera of the third Sunday of the Great Fast - *Tone 8 samohlasen***

O Lord, you willingly stretched out your hands upon the Cross; now grant us the

compunction to venerate it worthily. Illumine our hearts with your

brightness, O Lord, by fasting and prayer, temperance and good deeds;

for you are good and you love us all.

*Cantor:* My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

5

O Lord, in the a-bun-dance of your love, in this new week of the bright Fast,  
 wipe out the multi-tude of my sins; grant that my soul may be pu - ri - fied,  
 and that I may see and vener-ate your ho - ly Cross, O Lord and Lov - er  
 of us all.

*Tone 3 samohlasen*

Cantor:

Let the watchman count on day-break and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

4

O won - der, sur-pass-ing all the won-ders of old! We be-hold the Cross where  
 Christ was cru-ci-fied in the flesh. The world bows before its bright-ness and  
 cries out: O the pow-er of the Cross! The sight of it puts  
 de-mons to flight: its im-age burns them as a fire. I bless you, O

pre-cious Cross; I ven-erate you and, in fear, I bow be-fore you;  
 and I give thanks to God for life e-ter-nal, which he grants to  
 me through you.

*Tone 4 samohlasen*

Cantor:

Be-cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,  
 Is-rael indeed he will re-deem from all its in-i-qui-ty.

**Stichera of the pre-feast of the Annunciation - *Tone 4 samohlasen***

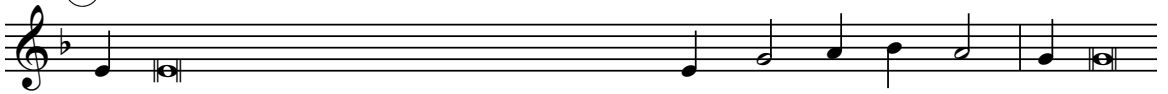
③

The archangel Gabriel affirms the mys-te-ry which was hidden and un-known to the  
 an-gels; he now comes to you, the most pure and beautiful Dove, the chosen one of the  
 hu-man race. He cries out to you: Rejoice, O most Ho-ly One, pre-pare yourself  
 to receive, by my word, the Word of God in your womb.

*Cantor:* 

Praise the Lord, all you na-tions, ac-claim him all you peo - ples!

②



A light-bearing palace, the pure womb of the hand - mai - den of God, has been



prepared for you, O Mas - ter. Come down and dwell with - in her. In your




love for your cre - a - tion, save us from the sla - ve - ry of death



and restore us to our for - mer beau - ty. By your coming, grant us your peace and




sal - va - - - - tion.

*Cantor:* 

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith - ful for - ev - er.

①



O all - im - mac - u - late One, the archangel Gabriel openly comes to you and cries out:



Re - joice, O Remission of the curse! Re - joice, O Resurrection of the





fal - len! Re - joice, for you a - lone were cho - sen for God!

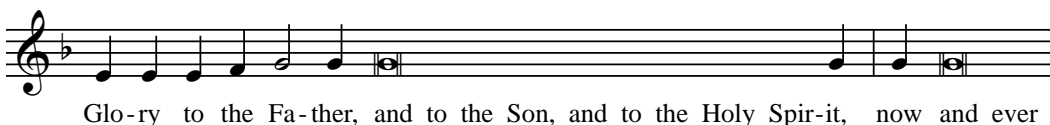


Re - joice, O Chariot of the Sun of Glo - ry! Re - ceive Him who is with - out flesh



and who de - sires to a bide in your womb.

*Tone 2 samohlasen*

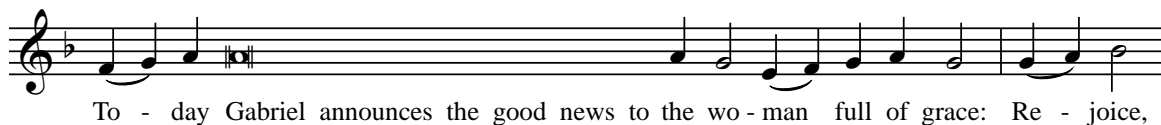
Cantor: 

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ever



and for - ev - er. A - men.

**Theotokion** - *Tone 2 samohlasen*



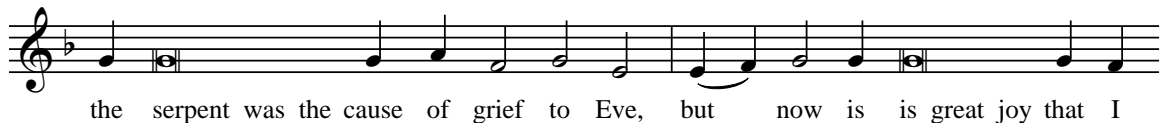
To - day Gabriel announces the good news to the wo - man full of grace: Re - joice,



O Vir - gin who has not known wed - lock; do not fear the strange - ness of my



ap - pear - ance, for I am an arch - an - - - gel. For - mer - ly



the serpent was the cause of grief to Eve, but now is is great joy that I



an-ounce: You shall re-main a virgin, and yet you shall give birth to the Lord.

*The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, "O joyful light," on page 8.*

## Aposticha

### Aposticha of the third Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 8 samohlasen



Woe is me! I dare not lift my eyes to heav - en be-cause of my e - vil



deeds; but like the Publican I sigh and say: For - give me, for I am a



sin - - ner, and pre - serve me from the hypocrisy of the Phar - i - see,



O Lord, in your good - - - ness.

### *Cantor*



To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the



eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of



her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his

mer - - - - cy.

All repeat, "Woe is me! I dare not lift my eyes..."

*Cantor*

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's dis - dain.

③ O mar-tyrs of the Lord, you sanc-tify all places and heal all dis - eas - es.

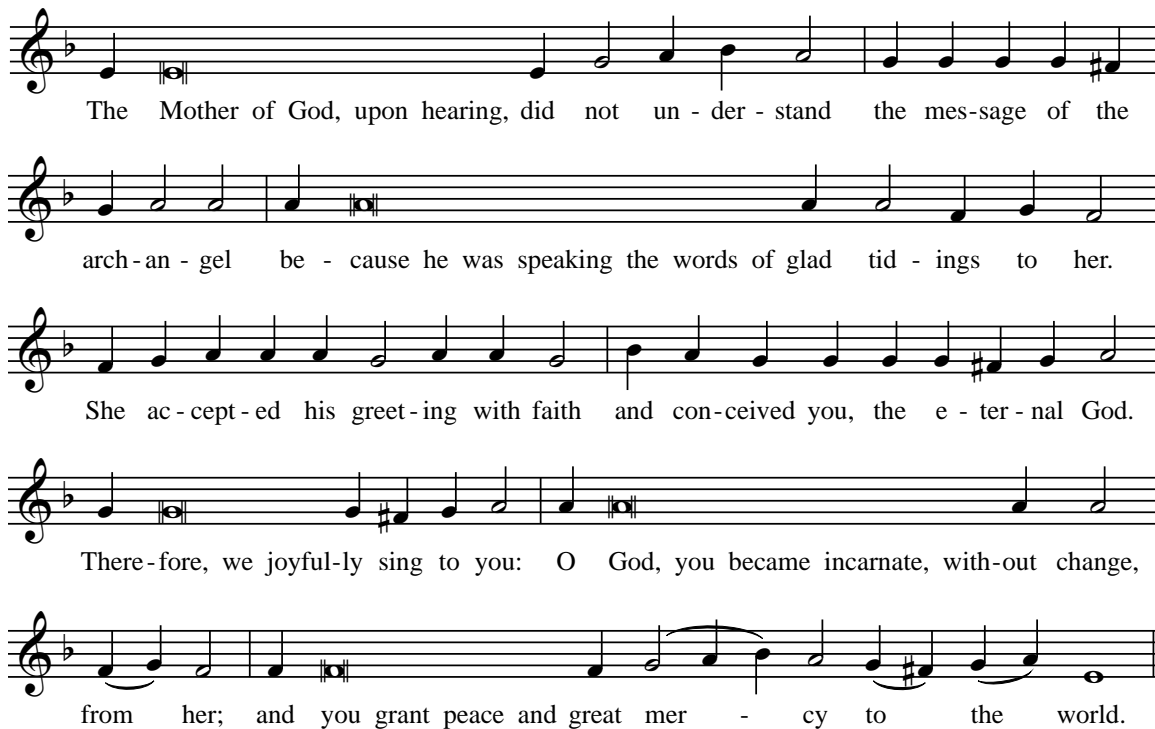
There-fore, we ask of you: Pray that our souls be de - liv - - - - ered

from the snares of the En - e - - my.

*Tone 4 samohlasen*

*Cantor:* Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ev-er and for - ev - er. A - men.

**Aposticha theotokion of the pre-feast - Tone 4 samohlasen**



The Mother of God, upon hearing, did not un - der - stand the mes - sage of the  
arch - an - gel be - cause he was speaking the words of glad tid - ings to her.  
She ac - cept - ed his greet - ing with faith and con - ceived you, the e - ter - nal God.  
There - fore, we joyful - ly sing to you: O God, you became incarnate, with - out change,  
from her; and you grant peace and great mer - cy to the world.

*The service continues with the Prayer of St. Simeon on page 13.*